

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 15-17 stand rejected, with claims 5, 6 and 11-14 objected to in the outstanding Official Action. Claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice, claims 1-4, 6, 11, 13-17 amended and newly written claims 18-22 offered for consideration. Therefore, claims 1-4 and 6-22 are the only claims remaining in this application.

The Examiner's acknowledgment of the acceptability of Applicant's originally submitted formal drawings is very much appreciated. Additionally, the Examiner's consideration of the prior art previously submitted with Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement is appreciated.

The specification is objected to as containing an embedded hyperlink. The embedded hyperlink has been deleted as per the Examiner's suggestion. The Examiner also objects to the specification with respect to clarity of various items. Applicant has modified the language of the claims so as to avoid the language objected to in the specification.

However, Applicant believes the language in the specification is clear when independently considered. Applicant's specification establishes that a data element can have one or more data items, and therefore the reference to "data element or data elements data items" is clear. Similarly, there can be data items which are part of the data link or are carried by the data link. Thus, the statement "data link data items" is clear.

Also, the use of the phrase "at least one of the at least one channel" is perhaps stilted, but is absolutely correct. This phrase is used in claim 2 and elsewhere, and it is noted that claim 1 specifies "at least one channel." The limitation contained in claim 2 is that at least one of the "at least one channel" is arranged as stated. More than one or even all of the "at least one channel" can be so arranged. However, the claim 2 limitation requires that at least one of the recited channels (at least one channel) is so arranged. Applicant believes this language to be correct.

Applicant also believes that while the language in the specification is correct, where that language can be further clarified, it has been so clarified in the claims. Accordingly, any further objection to the specification is respectfully traversed, and any anticipated objection to the claim language is similarly traversed.

The Examiner's indication that the subject matter of claims 5, 6 and 11-14 is allowable if rewritten in independent form is very much appreciated. Applicant has cancelled without prejudice the subject matter of claim 5 and added the limitation of claim 5 into independent claims 1 and 15. Accordingly, claims 1 and 15 and claims dependent thereon are clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

Applicant has rewritten claims 6, 11, 13 and 14 in independent form (claim 12 depending from claim 11), thereby placing them in allowable form. Applicant has also submitted for consideration newly written claims 18-22 corresponding to claims 6 and 11-14, but dependent from claim 1 (which has now been amended to include the limitation of claim 5). Therefore, these newly added claims are slightly narrower than existing claims 6 and 11-14 which have been amended to read in independent form. Consideration of newly written claims 18-22 is respectfully requested.

Former claims 1-4, 7-10 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Vadivelu (U.S. Patent 6,629,001). Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to include the limitation of claim 5 which the Examiner has indicated contains allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claims 1 and 15 are now allowable and claims 2-4, 7-10, 16 and 17, all dependent upon claims 1 and 15, respectively, are also allowable. Therefore, the rejection under 35 USC §102 has been obviated.

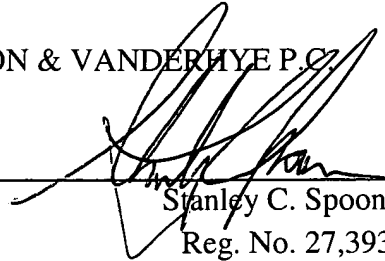
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Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that claims 1-4 and 6-22 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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